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A
HISTORY
of the
UNITED STATES
For Young People



BY ARENSA SONDERGAARD



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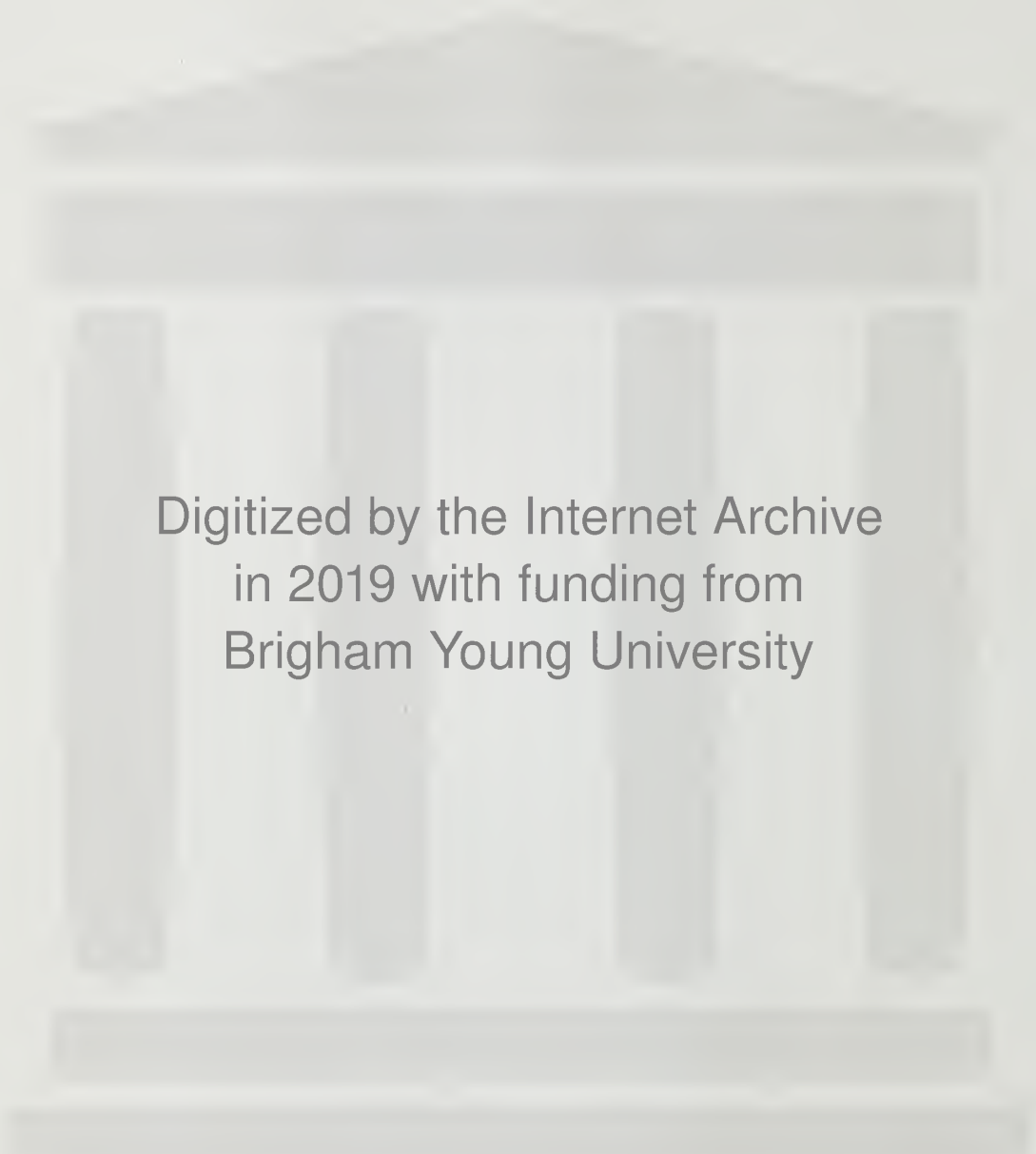
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A
History
OF THE
United States
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

by ARENSA SONDERGAARD, B.A., M.A.
Lincoln School, Teachers College
Columbia University

THE DRAMATIC growth of America—from its beginnings down to the present day—is here outlined and pictured in a way that young people will appreciate. With a brilliant economy of words Mrs. Sondergaard has managed to include, within a small compass, the entire history of our great republic: its early days of struggle; the wars which were fought to preserve its freedom; the changes that took place in the life of its people as a result of new inventions and faster means of communication and travel; the great men whose wise decisions and actions saved the nation in times of crisis; the development of its cities and industries; and its rise as a world power.

Nothing important has been omitted from this accurate and beautifully illustrated account. Through it young people will find a renewed interest in their study of American history, and parents will rejoice at the opportunity, never before presented, of purchasing a book of this nature at so low a price.

JUVENILE

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A *History*
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BY ARENSA SONDERGAARD, B.A., M.A.

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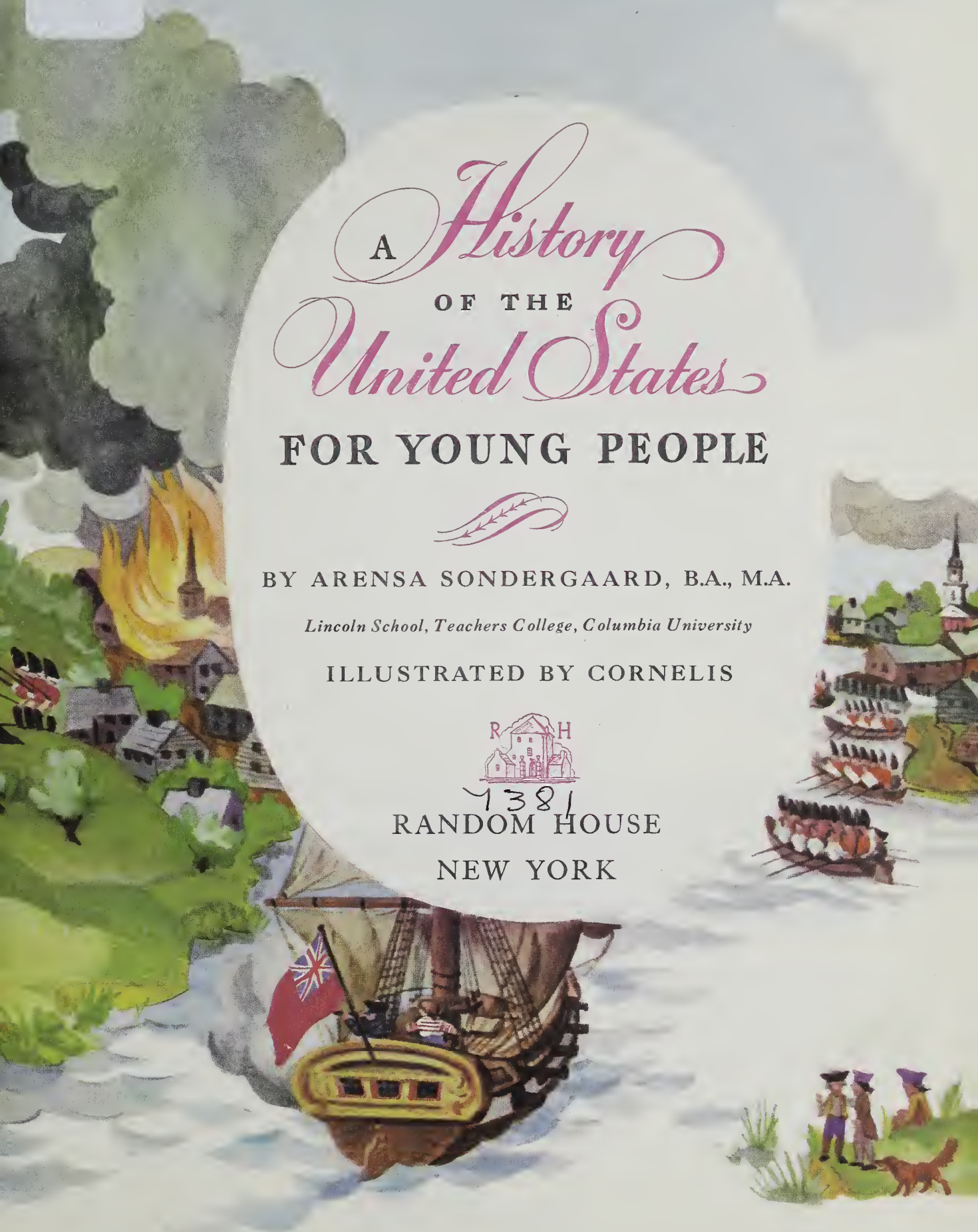
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1381

RANDOM HOUSE

NEW YORK



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A History OF THE United States FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



A very long time ago, men sailed out from Northern Europe in slender ships, beautifully carved, but open to the wind and the sea.

These Norsemen, or “Vikings” as they were called, went in search of adventure and riches. Some sailed to England and France; some found their way to the Mediterranean and to the city of Constantinople. Others, more peaceful, pointed the dragon’s head which formed the prow of their boat toward the unknown Western seas. They sailed afar to find new lands to which they might bring their wives and children, and to make new homes.



The stormy seas of the North Atlantic were hard to cross. But the Norsemen kept on. With their square sails taut in the wind, and their bright shields gleaming in the sun like the giant scales of a sea monster, they reached Iceland and even skirted the coast of Greenland.



One man, Leif Ericson, headed his boat still farther west. With a band of followers he reached a pleasant land which he called Vinland.

It is said that Vinland was on the coast of what we call Massachusetts, and that these were the first white men to land in America.

The Norsemen did not stay long in this new land. They went back across the sea, and very soon Vinland was almost forgotten.



In time, men from other parts of Europe began visiting faraway places. Some went to Africa, others by land to Persia and India, and some even to China, bringing back tales of wonders and riches.

But the roads to China and other distant lands were rough, and hard to travel. Months were spent in covering short distances, and travelers were often attacked by bands of robbers. Therefore many people hoped that shorter routes to the East could be found by sea. Some thoughtful men who believed the world was not flat, but really round, decided that such routes could be found.

“Rather than travel east by land, let us sail westward,” they said, “and reach China and India by sailing *around the world!*”

One of those who believed this could be done was Christopher Columbus. This man, born in Genoa, Italy, went to Spain to ask the Spanish King, Ferdinand, and his Queen, Isabella, for help.

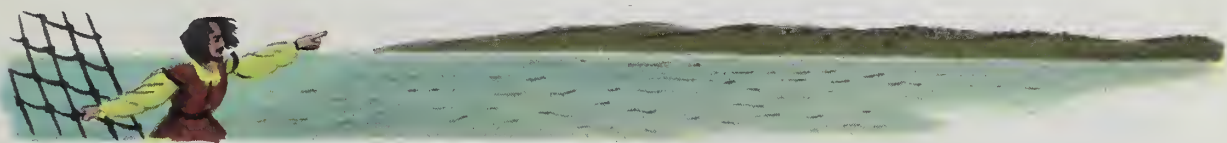
In 1492 they at last lent Columbus three small wooden ships, the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*, for the voyage of discovery. They thought Columbus would return with the ships loaded with gold and spices from India.

Columbus sailed in August from the little port of Palos, Spain. The little ships came first to the Canary Islands, well known to sailors even then.

From here they sailed out on the great uncharted ocean toward the western horizon. Weeks went by, but still the sailors could see only endless waves around the ships. Sometimes a man would shout “Land!” and the rest of the crew would be greatly excited. But what they thought was land turned out to be mist and clouds.

Most of the sailors became discouraged. They thought they were sailing to the end of the earth and would fall off—or be devoured by terrible ocean monsters. They wanted to turn back and go home. But Columbus told them again and again that he would not turn back.

And then, one day, logs and branches of trees were seen floating in the water. Land was near!



About two o'clock one morning, Rodrigo, a sailor on the *Pinta*, clearly saw land ahead. His great shout of “Land! Land!” brought all sailors on deck. Eagerly they looked in the direction Rodrigo pointed.

Rodrigo was right!

That very day, October 12, 1492, Columbus went ashore and planted the flag of the Spanish King and the banner of the Cross on the little island, which he called "San Salvador."

A part of the New World had been discovered.

From this island in the Bahamas, Columbus sailed on and found the islands of Haiti, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Because he thought he had reached India, these islands became known as the "West Indies," and the copper-colored, strange-speaking inhabitants of this part of the world were called "Indians."



Men in Europe soon began to doubt that the land Columbus visited really was the fabulous country of India. Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian who had made explorations along the coast of South America, was certain that a new continent had been found.

So strong was his belief that he called all the newly discovered land *Novus Mundus*, which is Latin for "New World." Later generations, wishing to honor this man, named the New World for him. Using his first name, Amerigo, or Americus, they called the new world "America."

Hearing stories about America, many Europeans were excited. Here was a new country of tremendous size, with possibilities for adventure and conquest. Here was a New World where they could find gold and

silver and precious stones; a land with fertile soil where free men might build homes and shape a great future.

So across the seas they came—dipping around the Horn, pushing up along both coasts of South America, landing in North America and exploring its coasts, nosing their ships into the bays and along the rivers, raising their flags in the name of King and Country—everywhere leaving their mark, good or bad, on the people and the lands they touched.

High were the hopes of most of these adventurers. One, Ponce de León, a Spaniard who came out after Columbus, went with his followers in search of a magic fountain, whose waters, he had been told, would give eternal youth to anyone who drank them.



He never found this “Fountain of Youth,” but one Easter Sunday, when the good smells of spring came out to sea, he and his men saw long sandy beaches ahead. They put ashore, and claimed the land for Spain, calling it “Florida,” which is Spanish for “season of flowers.” Near the place where they landed, the city of St. Augustine was later built.



Other Spanish adventurers sailed out from the now familiar islands of the West Indies, and Mexico was discovered. Sailors brought back

exaggerated stories of what they had seen there. Hernando Cortez then set out with an expedition to win this rich land, which was inhabited by the Aztec Indians.



Cortez arrived at Vera Cruz on the coast, then marched boldly inland through thick forests with his little band of soldiers armed with swords, guns, and other weapons. In the interior of Mexico he found the great Aztec Empire, ruled by Chief Montezuma; and here lay Mexico City, rich in gold, silver, and magnificent temples.

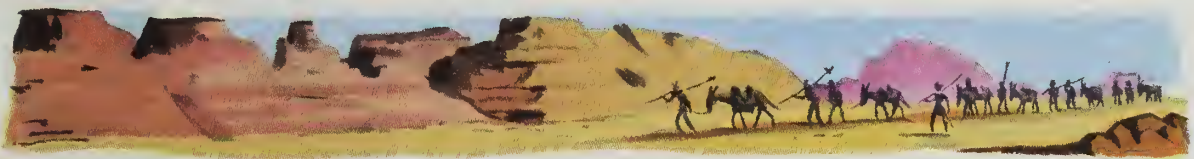


The Spaniards were welcomed, and entered the city as guests of the Aztec Chief. But soon fierce fighting broke out because the Spaniards wanted gold. The Indians were defeated, Montezuma was killed, and

Mexico City was destroyed. Only ruins remained of what had once been the beautiful temples and palaces of the Aztecs.



Francisco de Coronado, another daring Spaniard, explored farther. With his small army, he marched north through what is now Arizona and New Mexico to find rich cities he had heard of from the natives. Like many explorers, he never found the riches he was seeking, but it is possible that he was the first white man to visit the huge Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, and he helped later generations by his explorations of the Southwest.



The Mississippi River and the valley through which it flows were discovered by Hernando de Soto. Starting in Florida, his expedition of about a thousand men pushed westward on a journey full of hardships. They crossed the Mississippi and went on to Texas, then turned back. When they reached the Mississippi again, De Soto died of fever. After his men had buried him in the river, they built boats and sailed back, out toward the coast and the sea to meet their comrades-in-arms.



At about this time, French fishing boats were sailing along the northeastern coast of North America. Stories and trinkets brought back to France fired the imagination of navigators like Jacques Cartier. He visited the unexplored north country of Newfoundland and Labrador, and explored the long St. Lawrence River.

While the Spanish and the French were busy exploring and taking possession of the New World, English men and ships did not lie idle. Names like Cabot and Drake and Baffin remind us of daring voyages made by seamen from the British Isles.

In 1587, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the English nobleman Sir Walter Raleigh started one of the first English settlements in America. Ships brought supplies, weapons, and tools, and men and women to live in his colony in Virginia.

At first, the courage of these people was high, for it seemed that with help from England they would succeed in building safe homes in this wilderness.



Virginia Dare, the first child of English parents in America, was born in this colony on Roanoke Island.

But the settlers did not receive the needed supplies from the homeland. One man, John White, went back to England for help. When he returned, several years later, he found not a single person left in the colony. No one knows to this day where the settlers went, or whether they were killed by Indians or died of hunger or disease.



Other English people came across the ocean to become colonists. The “London Company” was formed to start colonies in what was then Virginia, and in 1607 sent over its first boats to the banks of the James River.



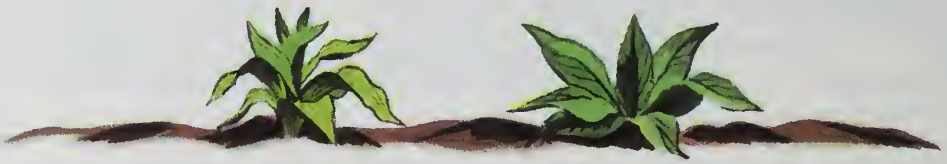
The settlers numbered about one hundred. Together they faced the first years of dangers and hardship. The Indians were not friendly. Hunger and disease sapped the strength of the settlers, and the work of clearing and cultivating the land was hard. Only will-power and belief in the future prevented the settlers from giving up.



It was fortunate that in Jamestown, as this first permanent English settlement in America was called, there were men of courage and ability. Captain John Smith, their leader, understood how to help and organize his fellow men.



Corn and tobacco were planted, houses were built, the surrounding country was explored. Before many years the colony began to prosper.



John Smith had thrilling adventures during these years. Many rivers were explored by him, and once he was captured by Indians and nearly killed. It is said that Pocahontas, the daughter of the Indian Chief Powhatan, asked that his life be spared, and he was freed.

Pocahontas was later married to one of John Smith's men. She sailed to England, where she was honored by all, including King James.



People in Europe were now learning more and more about America, and many came across the ocean to build their homes in Virginia and the near-by country. Tobacco became the important crop on the big farms or plantations of the South. More and more workers were needed, so Negroes were brought captive from Africa, sold as slaves to planters, and put to work in the fields.



POCAHONTAS SAVED CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH FROM THE WRATH OF THE INDIANS

The planters made good profits by sending tobacco to Europe. They built beautiful houses, lived in luxury, and helped to govern and build up the colonies.



Before the white man came to America, its vast stretches of land were sparsely inhabited by Indians.

Nobody knows where the Indians came from. Some believe they came from Asia thousands of years ago. We know only that they have lived here for a long time.

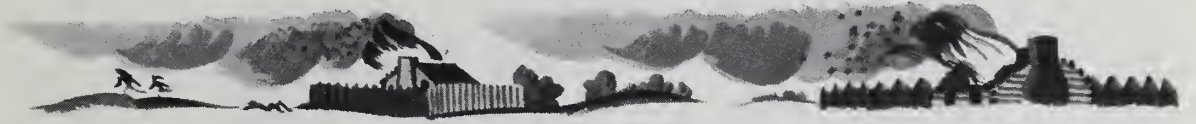


In some ways the Indians were all alike. They were people with straight black hair, brown coppery skin, finely curved noses, and intensely black eyes. But in ways of living, there were great differences, even in language. Some two or three hundred different tongues or dialects were in use among different tribes.



Some tribes, like the Narragansetts, the Delawares, and the Powhatans, lived near the Eastern seaboard and roamed the forests, where they fished and hunted deer, wild fowl, bears, and other animals. The Crows, the Cheyennes, the Pawnee Indians, and others lived on the plains, where buffaloes provided meat for food and hides for tepees and clothing. Tepees were made by covering a framework of poles with hides of buffalo and deer.

Most Indians in America did not have permanent homes or villages, but moved from place to place throughout the vast country. Some tribes raised crops like maize, or Indian corn, and squash, pumpkins, and tomatoes. But getting a living was difficult, and in the constant wars between tribes many Indians were killed. There were many fights over hunting grounds.



When settlers from Europe first arrived, they were met with friendliness and respect by the Indians. But trouble soon began.



The settlers wanted land, and burned and cut down the forests. This made hunting more difficult for the red man. Some settlers also cheated the Indians in buying land. On the other hand, the powder and guns of the white man were far better than the bows and arrows of the Indians, and the tools and goods and horses brought by the colonists were eagerly sought by the red men.



Soon the Indians found that they could not get along without these things, and were more and more dependent upon the white men.

So began a great struggle—a struggle between the red man, who up to this time had had all America to himself, and the white settler, who had moved in on him.

For many years, houses and barns and fields were often burned by attacking Indians. People were scalped, killed, and captured. Settlers moving to new land found travel hazardous, even though they were well armed with powder and guns. And for all this trouble the white men blamed the red men, and the red men blamed the white men.



Tales of hardship and dangers were told in Europe, but men and women kept coming to the shores of America.

Some still came as adventurers in quest of land, gold, and other riches. Others came to free themselves from selfish and cruel rulers, who kept them poor and hungry by making them pay most of their money in taxes, and who kept them miserable by refusing to let them worship God in the manner they preferred.



At that time there lived in England some people called “Separatists.” They wanted to break away (separate) from the Church of England, and they thought that kings everywhere had too much power. They believed people should govern themselves and worship as they chose.

Some Separatists fled to Holland, where they could plan the kind of church service that they wanted. Life was comfortable in Holland, and they liked the religious liberty they found there. But they longed for a place where they and their children might be able to keep their English speech and nationality.

The stories they heard about America made them decide to go there in search of a new home.

“Perhaps there we can be free and English at the same time,” they said to each other.



Some of the Pilgrim Fathers, as we now call them, went back to England to get a strong and sturdy ship with which to cross the ocean. In 1620, crowding into a ship called the *Mayflower*, they sailed away to the New World.

The ship, carrying about one hundred men, women, and children, reached the coast of Massachusetts on December twenty-first of that same year. The voyage had taken more than three months.



The winter was cold, and more than half of these Pilgrims died before the spring. The survivors did not lose courage, but built houses of logs, tilled the soil, went hunting and fishing, and built up their little village, which they had named Plymouth in memory of the English port from which they had sailed.



Eight years later, more people came from England in search of the religious liberty they could not have at home. They were called “Puritans” because they wanted to purify the church service and make it simpler. Some landed off Massachusetts Bay and settled at Salem; several hundred others, arriving later, founded the town of Boston.

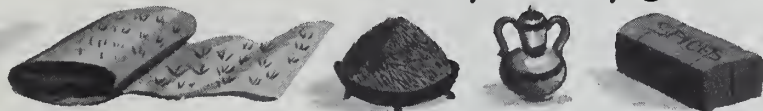


People who settled in this part of America, which was known as the Massachusetts Bay Colony, were thrifty and determined. They were thankful that some of them had been able to survive in this new land, that food had been plentiful, the harvest good, and that they could now worship God in the way they thought best.

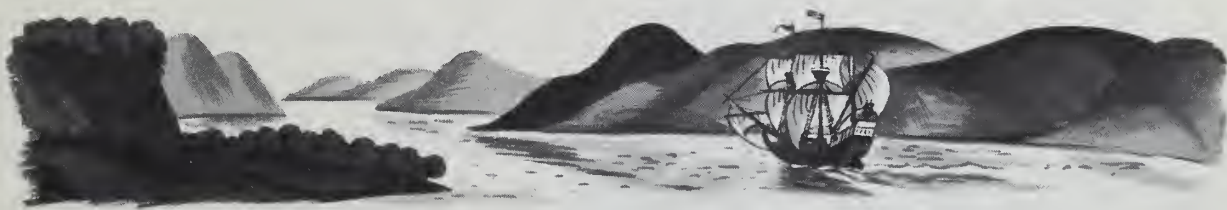


So they set aside a day in autumn on which to offer thanks to God. We call this “Thanksgiving Day,” and it has since become one of the great American holidays, observed by us all—a day on which many of us go to church, visit friends and relatives, and eat a good Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey, pumpkins, nuts, and other good things that we eat on this day remind us of the Pilgrims’ celebration.

As the years went on, more churches were built, and stores and workshops and schools were erected. The college that later became Harvard University was begun in 1636, just sixteen years after the landing at Plymouth. Commerce and trade grew, and soon sailing ships went out from Boston and Marblehead to distant ports of the world and brought home spices and silks from the Orient, and costly cargoes from other lands. The Massachusetts Bay Colony grew and prospered.



In the meantime, Holland too had been anxious to get a share of the New World. Henry Hudson, an English seaman, was given command of the Dutch ship *Half Moon* and told to do some exploring for Holland. Crossing the Atlantic with less than twenty sailors, in September, 1609, he reached the mouth of the great river which we now call the "Hudson River."



Sailing up the bay, the sailors saw the green hills of Staten Island and Long Island. Past Manhattan Island and the steep, clifflike Palisades of the New Jersey shore they sailed.

Gliding slowly up the broad river past the Catskill Mountains, the *Half Moon* came to anchor where the city of Albany now is.



Hudson found that the land was good, and that the Indians were friendly and willing to trade. All this he reported to the Dutch people upon his return to Holland. Not long after, many Dutch were coming to the Hudson River to trade with the Indians and settle there.



The Governor of the Dutch settlements, Peter Minuit, bought Manhattan Island from the Indians. He paid them with knives, hatchets, and other goods worth about twenty-four dollars.

The Dutch called the town on lower Manhattan "New Amsterdam." It became the trading center of the whole Dutch colony. And a busy place it was, even in those early days.

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Dutch houses were built, markets were set up, and buying and selling went on at a lively rate. Down the river from the other settlements came furs, farm products, and timber. Ships from overseas unloaded their wares, such as coffee, tea, spices, and other things the Dutch wives wanted for their households. Then, packed with products from the colonies, back the ships went to the mother country.

The English were jealous as they watched New Amsterdam grow, because they had long ago laid claim to this land. This Dutch colony had a fine harbor and was one of the most successful trading posts in all America. "We should have that harbor," the English told their King Charles. Three armed British ships sailed into New Amsterdam.



"Surrender!" the British commander told the Dutch. But Peter Stuyvesant, the new Governor, was stubborn. "Old Silver Leg" he was called, because of his peg-leg banded in silver. Stumping up and down, he commanded the Dutch to arm and defend their city.



But the Dutch knew they were ill-prepared to defend themselves. They surrendered their colony without firing a gun, and thus, in 1664, New Amsterdam became New York.

England's colonies were now growing fast. Holding to the waterways of river and sea, they spread up and down the coast.



In the North, many people moved southward from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They left to get new land, more freedom, and sometimes because they did not believe in the Puritan way of life, which was getting more and more strict. Puritans did not want neighbors with different beliefs, and were glad to see them go. Among those who went was Roger Williams, a Puritan minister who wanted more freedom for everybody and better treatment for the Indians. He settled in Rhode Island, and many joined him.



Settlements in New Hampshire and Connecticut were also begun, so that there were now four colonies in the North. In the South also there were four colonies. From the first settlement in Jamestown, Virginia, (1607) the southern settlers ventured farther down the coast, founding North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. They needed many acres for their large farms, or plantations, and living space for the Negro slaves that were brought out of Africa to help work the fields.

Between the North and the South were the five middle colonies. People still came to New York and New Jersey; Lord Baltimore founded Maryland; and William Penn, a Quaker, settled with some of his followers on a wide piece of land called "Pennsylvania." He encouraged all peaceful people, no matter what language they spoke or in what church they worshiped, to come to live in the Quaker colony.



So the Quakers, or "Society of Friends," were joined by people from Holland and Germany. Soon all were living together as good neighbors.

Men and women from Sweden, descendants of the Vikings, settled in Delaware. This colony later was taken by the Dutch and then surrendered to the English, who claimed it as they had claimed New Amsterdam.

The English colonies numbered thirteen: four in the South, four in the North, and five between.



Each had its own Governor, generally selected by the King, but sometimes by the people, as in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Everywhere leaders of the people were meeting and planning for the future. These meetings, in which ideas were talked over and laws passed, were called "Colonial Assemblies." Sometimes there were quarrels between the Governors, the Assemblies, and colonists. But matters were usually settled, and what was more important, the colonists were beginning to think for themselves.

These people of the English colonies were strong and hardy. Faced with the wilderness, they went to work and cleared forests, built homes, planted fields. First their homes were rough log cabins, furnished with crude tables and benches. Later, as the colonies prospered, some colonists could afford fine houses of boards and sometimes bricks.

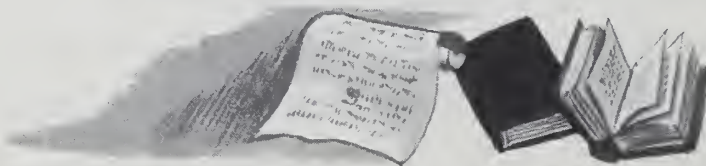
Mills were built to produce lumber and flour. Busy shipyards turned out fishing boats, and larger vessels to cross the seas and trade American products for European goods. Factories sprang up.



Roads between towns were few and unpaved, and during winter and spring they were very bad. But during most of the year people could travel from town to town on horseback or in stagecoaches.

Since there were no post offices, letters were carried by traveling friends or messengers. In time, companies were formed to carry mail.

Many colonists could not read, and books were few. People with a little education read the Bible and little else. Newspapers were few and very small. The first in America was the *Boston Newsletter*, which appeared in 1704. Education, too, was hard to get and expensive, but more schools and colleges opened as years passed.



While the English were founding their colonies along the Atlantic coast, French explorers came to the banks of the St. Lawrence River, and to the country around the Great Lakes. French hunters and trappers followed. Pelts of fur-bearing animals were collected, and fur trading centers grew up. Farmers came to settle the land, and explorers continued to nose up and down the waterways.

La Salle and his men were the first white men to sail all the way down the Mississippi. They floated on until they came to where the great river runs out into the sea. The huge river valley and thousands of acres of fertile land lying west of this waterway, together with all of Canada, were claimed for the King of France.

This was not to the liking of the English, who were sending men across the Appalachian Mountains to claim for England the land to the west. Soon bitter wars broke out between the English and the French.



They struggled for years, with armies made up of regular soldiers, colonists, and Indians. Some Indian tribes were on the side of England, and others, in the north, fought for France. The fighting stopped and peace was declared when France had lost nearly all her lands east of the Mississippi.

Many colonists had proved themselves to be good fighting men. One officer among them was better than most. He was a young surveyor from Virginia, and his name was George Washington.



After years of fighting, the colonies were again at peace.

But more trouble was brewing. Many colonists began thinking that this land, built by their efforts and toil, should not belong to England and her King. "It belongs to us who have cleared the forests and built the villages," they said. "Why should England make trouble for us?"

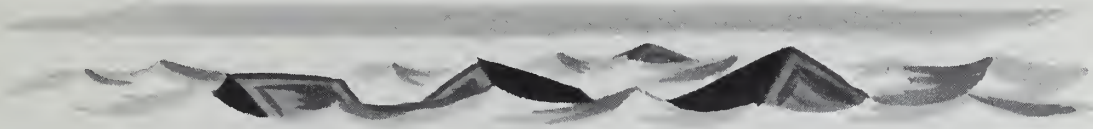


Bitterness increased between England and the colonies. The settlers disliked paying taxes on silks, wines, teas, molasses, and even on paper for newspapers, almanacs, and playing cards. "We don't have a voice in the government in London," they said. "Why should they take our money?" And in England many answered, "The colonies have been founded and protected by England. They should help England."



Ill feeling grew stronger. The colonists said, "We won't buy things on which there are taxes." Since the tax on tea was most hated of all, they added, "And we will certainly not buy tea." But the English kept sending over their cargoes of tea.

One dark night in December, 1773, some men from Boston, disguised as Indians, rowed out to tea ships in the harbor. They climbed up the steep sides of the ships, overpowered the British crews, seized the boxes of tea, and dumped them overboard.



This event, called “The Boston Tea Party,” showed that many colonists were ready to fight against England. Other colonists were still loyal to England and hoped that everything could be settled peaceably.



But the situation became worse. Telling the colonists that they would have to pay the taxes and obey his governors, the English King sent over more soldiers to see that his orders were carried out. This made many colonists angrier than ever, and they jeered at the soldiers and refused to obey.

Finally, a group of colonial leaders met in Philadelphia to talk things over. This important meeting, held in 1774, was called “The First Continental Congress.”



Meanwhile, many villagers and farmers were getting ready to fight if the English King should use force to make them obey. They stored up powder and musket balls, and practiced drilling. They were called “Minutemen” because they stood ready to fight at a minute’s notice.

The next year the British decided to teach the Massachusetts people a lesson. Orders were given secretly to British soldiers in Boston to march to Lexington and Concord, seize the stores of the Minutemen, and arrest the leaders, Samuel Adams and John Hancock.



THE BOSTON TEA PARTY—A COLONIAL PROTEST AGAINST UNJUST TAXATION

But the secret leaked out to the Americans during the day. That night Paul Revere and other riders galloped about warning everybody that the British were coming.



Paul Revere mounted his swift horse in Charlestown, near Boston, and rode out through the dark night. He stopped at house after house on his way, rousing the people from their sleep, shouting that the redcoats were near. On through Lexington and away to Concord he galloped, spreading the news.



Next day at early dawn—on April 19, 1775—red-coated British soldiers arrived at Lexington and found Minutemen waiting for them. When the Americans refused to surrender their arms, the British fired on them, and seven or eight Americans fell dead. This has become known as the “Battle of Lexington.”



Marching on toward Concord, the British met more Minutemen at Concord Bridge. The angry Americans returned shot for shot, and the worried redcoats began retreating to Boston.

By this time people from the neighboring towns had heard the gunfire, and men and boys got out their muskets to join in the fight. As the British hurried back along the road toward Boston, they were fired on constantly. They lost nearly 300 soldiers before they reached safety in Boston.

The Revolutionary War had begun, and men in all the colonies were thoroughly aroused. They wanted to help their country even though it meant risking their lives. Many thousands left their families in the cities, in villages and on farms, and walked the long muddy roads to join the American fighting forces. And soon Boston, with the British army, was surrounded by them.



In May of that year the Continental Congress met again in Philadelphia. Some who gathered there remained loyal to England; others began to believe that the colonies ought to be entirely free states where men could make their own laws and build their own country—free states in which it was good to live and to work—a land of opportunity.

The war went on, spreading throughout the colonies, and the next year Congress took a great step: it signed the Declaration of Independence. This happened on July 4, 1776; and now every year we celebrate July the fourth as Independence Day.



The Declaration of Independence was one of the most important events in our history. In it Americans declared that all men were created equal, that all had a right to “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

From now on, the Declaration said, Americans should be free from the rule of the King of England, free to declare wars and make peace, and free to trade with any foreign nation in the world.



Among the signers of the Declaration of Independence were famous Americans whom we like to remember as serving our country well.

There were Samuel Adams and John Hancock, leaders of the Minutemen in Massachusetts.

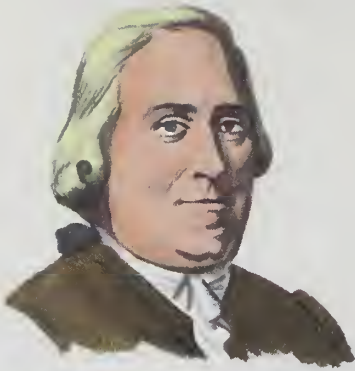
There was Thomas Jefferson, a lawyer from Virginia, who became president of the Continental Congress and later the third President of our nation. With his strong beliefs about justice and freedom, he took a leading part in the writing of the Declaration.

There was Benjamin Franklin, son of a candlemaker of Boston. He was a printer by trade and lived in Philadelphia, where he printed his own newspaper and a book of wise sayings called *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

Americans were already taking notice of Franklin's work. They had heard of his experiments with eyeglasses; they had warmed themselves at a "Franklin Stove"; they had been interested to hear how he sent up a kite to experiment with lightning.



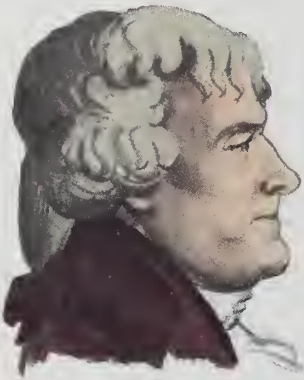
Franklin was a clever and wise man with a friendly word for everyone; he kept his sense of humor when others became tired and discouraged. He was later sent to France, where he obtained valuable help for his country.



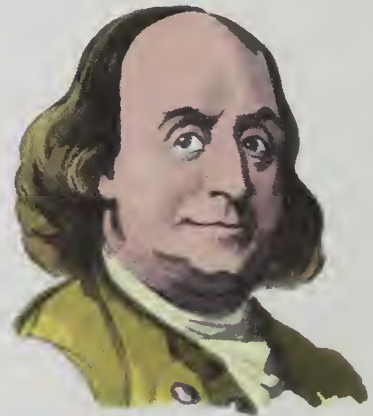
SAMUEL ADAMS



JOHN HANCOCK



THOMAS JEFFERSON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

In the meantime the war dragged on. After the fights at Lexington and Concord, the British army was still in Boston, and outside the town were the ranks of Minutemen ready for battle. Two months later, British troops again went out to attack. The Americans, who held the top of a hill, twice beat back enemy soldiers charging up the hill. Only after a third attack did the Americans withdraw; their ammunition was running low.

This was the Battle of Bunker Hill, which proved that many Americans were good fighters and willing to die for freedom.



BUNKER HILL PROVED THAT AMERICANS WOULD DIE FOR FREEDOM

After the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Continental Congress made George Washington the Commander of the American Army. When he threatened to bombard the British in Boston, the redcoats boarded British ships in the harbor and sailed away to carry on the war in other places.



That summer an English army under General Howe landed on Long Island near New York. The Battle of Long Island was fought, and the British then crossed the river and entered the city, while the Americans retreated through New Jersey.



These were hard times for George Washington and his men. As they marched south to protect Philadelphia, they suffered for lack of food and equipment. Some soldiers deserted, and others lost hope.



But on Christmas Eve, there was good news for Americans. George Washington crossed the Delaware River with his soldiers and attacked the British at Trenton. In the heavy snow which fell during the night, the Americans surprised the British and took a thousand prisoners.



The news made all patriots more hopeful. And now that people in other lands were beginning to understand what the Americans were fighting for, many experienced soldiers and officers came from foreign countries to help.

Lafayette came from France, Von Steuben from Germany, and Pulaski and Kosciusko from Poland. These were liberty-loving men who wanted to help the Americans to become independent.



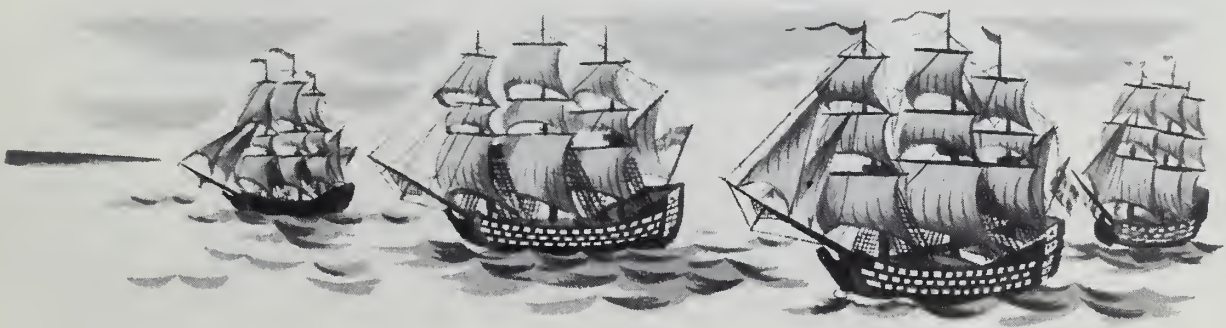
In 1777 the Continental Congress decided that the Americans should have their own flag, a flag of stars and stripes. It is said that Betsy Ross in Philadelphia made this first flag according to directions given her by George Washington.



That winter the British army marched to Philadelphia, while Washington and his men camped at Valley Forge, twenty-four miles away.

A cold, hard winter set in. The American soldiers in their crude huts went hungry, and their shoes and clothing wore out. Many became sick, and some died. Often soldiers wondered whether it was worth while to fight any longer.

Little money came from the Continental Congress to help the tattered army, because there were disagreements in the Congress and money was hard to collect. But George Washington and other patriots decided that the fight for freedom must be won. Men like Franklin, Robert Morris, and Lafayette raised money, and Franklin sailed to France to get help. France then sent us money, men, and warships.





THE CONTINENTAL ARMY ENDURED A COLD, HARD WINTER AT VALLEY FORGE

But there were more years of fighting and suffering before the war ended. Some events encouraged the Americans, especially when the British General Burgoyne, marching down from Canada in 1777, was forced to surrender his army of nearly six thousand men, after a hard fight at Saratoga, New York.



Some events saddened the patriots, as when young Nathan Hale, brave soldier in George Washington's army, was caught while spying in a British camp. Just before he was hanged by the British, he gallantly said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."



On the sea, men like John Paul Jones led the small American navy against British men-of-war and won many victories. American crews on fishing boats and merchant ships, armed with cannon and called "privateers," helped by seizing British ships loaded with supplies.

On land, some Indian tribes helped the British. They raided settlements, gave the British information, and sometimes fought beside British troops.



George Rogers Clark and his men pushed through the wilderness west of the Allegheny Mountains, fought the Indians, and drove the British from the territory. The American flag was now flown from Western forts, holding a large tract of land for the new nation.

The last big victory of the war was now to take place. In 1781, George Washington and his men surrounded Yorktown in Virginia, where the British General Cornwallis and his seven thousand soldiers were in camp. At the same time, the French fleet appeared on the sea near by to threaten the British with their guns.



Outwitted and trapped, Cornwallis surrendered on October 17, and ordered his men to lay down their arms.

This was practically the end of the War for Independence, and the colonists had won. Peace terms were agreed upon in 1783. After these years of fighting and service, the soldiers were glad to be sent to their homes. Washington himself resigned as commander of the army.



Now the thirteen states, colonies of England no longer, needed a government to make laws, keep order, collect taxes, and guard the people's welfare. It would be a hard task, because the nation was poor, there were disagreements among patriots, and the different states were often jealous of each other.

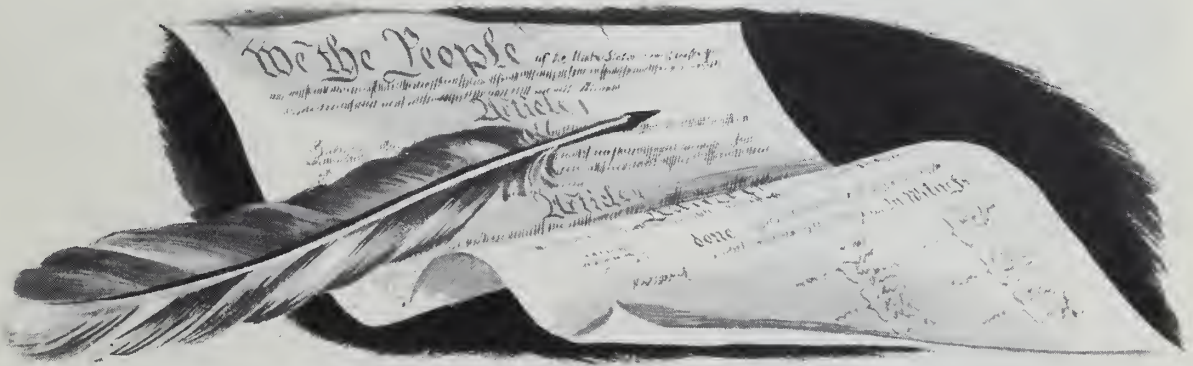
Led by George Washington, state leaders met in Philadelphia in 1787. Some of the nation's best patriots were there—Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and many others.

They agreed that the people of each state should elect and send men to the nation's capital. These elected men, who would make the laws, were to be the Congress of the United States. They would be called Senators and Representatives.

It was agreed that there should be a President to head the government and be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Navy. Elected by the people to serve four years, he could appoint certain citizens with whom he worked well to aid him in his great task. These persons make up what we call the President's "Cabinet."



It was decided that courts should be set up, in which disagreements could be settled and all persons accused of breaking the laws could have a fair trial. The highest court was to be the United States Supreme Court.



These and other decisions were written into a document called the "Constitution," signed by all present at this meeting in Philadelphia.

Since 1787, more has been put into the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, agreed on in 1791. This provided for freedom of worship, of speech, of press, and of meetings, and for other rights.



When the first President was to be elected, most people agreed that George Washington would make a good President. He had been leader of the army during the hard war years. He had told his countrymen to be strong and courageous and never to lose faith in the nation's future. So in April, 1789, he became our first President.

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As a young man George Washington had lived in Virginia, where his father owned a large plantation. Once his school days were over, George spent much of his time hunting, riding, and exploring the countryside. He was a surveyor, too, measuring out new land and locating boundaries between neighbors.

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Washington's home at Mount Vernon was on the banks of the Potomac River. It contained thousands of acres of land, with more than a hundred slaves.

During the first year of George Washington's Presidency, Congress met in New York City and decided to set aside a district on the banks of the Potomac River, between Maryland and Virginia, where the city of Washington was to be built. This was to be known as the "District of Columbia," and was to be the center of the national government.



A capitol was built as a meeting place for the Congressmen, and a house was erected for the President, together with other buildings that the government needed to carry on its work.



From the start, the city of Washington was laid out so that it would be beautiful as well as useful. Since then the city has grown, and other buildings have been added; but the original plan has always been kept in mind.

Today Washington, D. C., is a reminder to us all of men who have worked and planned for their country, and particularly of George Washington, leader of men, of whom it was said at his death in 1799: "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

One of the Presidents who followed George Washington was Thomas Jefferson. Signer of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States, he was a thoughtful statesman with ideas about democracy which every citizen of our country should know.



He said that when people came together to make decisions, they should always remember to be reasonable in their dealings with smaller groups who held opinions different from theirs. He also said that all young people should be better educated, so that they could become good citizens and take part in the development of their country. Because of his belief in better schools, the University of Virginia was planned and built.



Though other states had been added to the thirteen states which first made up our country, the land west of the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains still belonged to France, and little was known of the country in the Northwest, across the Rockies. Exploration made it possible for the Americans to go in and settle on these large stretches of land.



Thomas Jefferson sent some of his friends across the seas to ask the Emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, whether he would sell a portion of the land France held in America. Bonaparte needed money badly, and in 1803 sold the entire territory that France owned here.



It was called Louisiana, and stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, except for Texas. The United States Government bought it for fifteen million dollars, and this deal is now spoken of as the “Louisiana Purchase.” So a new and great tract of land was opened up to the American pioneers.



But the far Northwest still remained unexplored. Jefferson, wishing to know more about the possibilities of settling this territory far out to the Pacific Ocean, sent Lewis and Clark to explore it.



Taking with them some fearless companions, in 1804 they sailed up the Missouri River and trekked across the big plains, meeting many Indians on the way. Crossing the Rockies, they came to the rushing waters of the Columbia River, which they followed to the Pacific Ocean. After two years they returned to report the beauty and fertility of the far Northwest, and now this section of America also began to lure adventurous people from the East.

A year later, another great event occurred, though most people did not know how important it was at the time. Along the banks of the Hudson River, people wondered at a boat which had no sail or oar, yet moved steadily up the river as if pushed by an invisible giant.



This was Robert Fulton's steamboat, *The Clermont*, which sailed from New York to Albany. It was America's first steamship.



In 1812, war again broke out between the United States and England, mainly because the British had been interfering with our ships on the seas. There was fighting on land and sea, and the British burned the Capitol and the President's house in Washington. The American warship *Constitution*, or "Old Ironsides," won a great victory over the British ship *Guerrière*, and Andrew Jackson, an American general, successfully defended New Orleans against the redcoats.



During these days a famous song was written by the American Francis Scott Key while on board a prison ship. While the British were bombarding Fort McHenry in Baltimore, he could see the American flag waving in the breeze. This sight made him want to write a poem, which he called *The Star Spangled Banner*. It has been put to music and has become our nation's song, or national anthem.



A TRIP ON ONE OF THE FIRST RAILROADS WAS A THRILLING ADVENTURE

After the war ended, in 1815, more and more states were admitted to the Union—Indiana and Mississippi, Illinois and Maine, and others. In 1819, Florida was bought from Spain.



As the people spread over a wider and wider territory, the nation progressed. Inventions were made, roads built, industries grew up, ships were launched, books written; and improvements in our government were being made. Horace Mann and others began to build our great public school system.



A few years after Fulton sailed his steamboat up the Hudson River, more boats of this kind were puffing up and down the Mississippi, Ohio, and other great rivers. To the people they looked like floating palaces with their beautiful carpets, fine furniture, and gay decorations. They carried passengers and freight over long distances.



Floating theaters, or showboats, sometimes sailed up and down the rivers, docking near towns, so that people could come on board to watch the actors and singers perform. Lights twinkled on the ships, musicians played gaily, and many times the audience joined in singing the jolly tunes.



Bigger and bigger boats were built. And in 1819 the *Savannah*, an American steamer, with paddle wheels driven by an engine, crossed the Atlantic to England in less than a month.

Soon a ship propeller was invented. It proved much better than the paddle wheels. Travel service across the ocean became faster. In 1840 the steamship *Britannia* arrived at Boston only two weeks after leaving Europe.



Transportation was improved also by the building of canals, which were big broad ditches with water deep enough for boats to pass through. The Erie Canal was built, so that boats filled with products from the farms could sail from Buffalo, on Lake Erie, to Albany, and on down the Hudson to the city of New York.



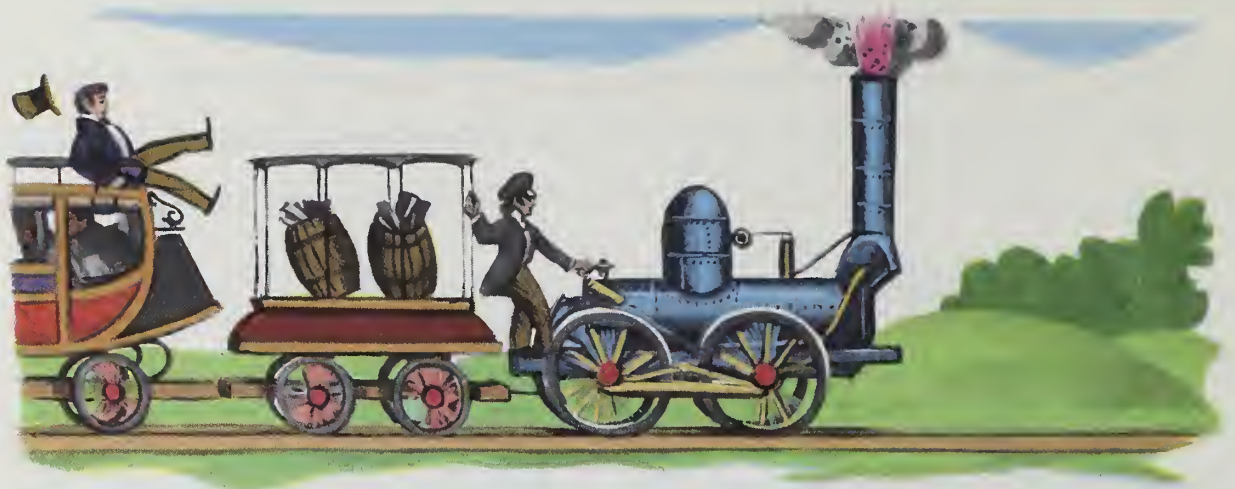
The farmers used this easy way of sending their crops to the cities, and the manufacturers in the cities also used canal boats to send their wares to the villages and farms.



Inventors in England and France had for some time been experimenting with engines run by steam. At last one was invented which could be run on tracks and even pull cars. Wooden rails were used at first; then strips of iron were laid on them; and, finally, long iron tracks were laid down.



The *Tom Thumb* was the first railroad engine built in America. Another of these early engines, named *De Witt Clinton*, became famous for its run between Albany and Schenectady in 1831.



A trip with the *De Witt Clinton* was an adventure. Passengers who dared to try this new way of traveling sat in cars built like stagecoaches. Excited and gay, they waited for the train to start. With a jerk and a bang the train began its journey. Hats fell off, smoke blew back on everybody, and one or two people fell off their seats. The cars were connected by chains, which jerked violently whenever the train started or stopped.

Once again settled on the hard seats, the people began to enjoy the trip through the countryside. The engineer was busily tending the great steam “horse,” regulating the speed, looking out for a stray cow on the track, and throwing big chunks of wood on the fire to make the train move faster. Some passengers grew frightened, because they believed that such fast speeds as fifteen or eighteen miles an hour were bad for the heart.

Smoke and sparks poured out of the smokestack, and passengers’ hats caught fire. Umbrellas were raised for protection, but soon they also were blazing. The passengers were busily slapping one another, trying to protect holiday clothes from flying sparks. Such was early train travel!

Meanwhile, beyond the Appalachian Mountains, pioneering still went on.



In the earliest days, when the settlers moved to better land or to new villages they had kept to the Eastern coast; for the Allegheny Mountains to the west were difficult to cross with cattle and wagons and household goods.

Some people, however, who were more independent and not afraid of Indians and hardships, crossed the mountains alone or with a few friends. They lived on the country, hunting and trapping the wild animals of the forests and plains.

These were the frontiersmen, so called because they lived on the frontiers, where few white men had been before.

Daniel Boone was one of the bravest frontiersmen. Equipped with powder and gun, a sharp knife at his belt for skinning the animals, and such things as could be rolled into a blanket and carried on his back, he strode quietly through the forest, the tail of his coonskin cap bobbing merrily behind him.



He tracked the deer and the elk. He hunted buffalo and turkey, and brought back to the settlements furs and hides to be used for clothes and belts and boots. Often he guided settlers to new places where they could clear land and build cabins.

And often he met Indians. He was captured by them several times and nearly scalped. But each time he escaped and returned to tell his friends of his new adventures.

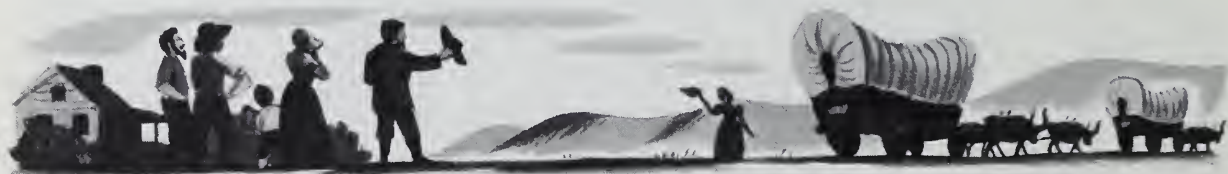
The Indians were usually unfriendly, because they saw that more and more settlers were coming with their axes, powder, and guns to spoil the good hunting.



But Daniel Boone always came back to the towns and told of wonderful forests, rich in game and in giant trees; of fertile soil, and beautiful mountains where brooks and waterfalls dashed over the cliffs and the rocks.

The eyes of the townspeople opened wide in astonishment at these tales and those told by other frontiersmen. And soon many settlers began to move.

First only a few ventured out, taking leave of their friends and the little villages in which they had settled. Others soon followed, with cattle and tools, women and children, and wagons heaped high with household goods and seeds for planting.



On toward the plains they went, one or two families or many families together. Pulled by oxen and sometimes by horses, the covered wagons

struggled on, winding their way along narrow trails, crossing the rivers where the water was shallow, but always keeping to their course.

Far out in front were the men on horses, with guns ready if Indians attacked. Women and children in the wagons sometimes acted as drivers of the teams. When dusk came and the people were tired, camp was made, and meals were prepared over the open fire.



As night fell, the pioneers gathered under the great dark sky. To keep up their courage in face of hardship, one told stories, another played music, and all joined in singing the songs that were jolly and cheerful.

Many who found land to their liking along the way built cabins and houses, and barns and churches; but others moved on.

There was new land ahead. New land for men who could use an ax and guide a plow, who with bare hands could build their homes and help their neighbors. New land ahead for brave women who would face the wilderness, and care for their families.

They crossed the Ohio River and the Mississippi, came to St. Louis and Kansas City. Many settled on the plains of Nebraska, where the soil, rich and black, promised a plentiful harvest. Others went on and crossed the Rocky Mountains. Along the California Trail they went, following the Humboldt River through Nevada. Over deserts and mountains they went, reaching Sacramento and San Francisco.

Some took the trail to the Oregon Country. On lurched their wagons, beside the Snake River and the giant Columbia River's waters, till one day horses and wagons and men were stopped by the mighty Pacific Ocean.

After a short war with Mexico in 1846, California became part of the United States. Two years later came word of an exciting discovery. Tiny, glimmering particles of gold had been found in the California soil near the mill belonging to a man named Sutter.

The news traveled throughout the country, and all over the world.



Thousands of people left their work to look for the yellow metal and get rich quickly. Farmers left their plows, bakers tossed aside their aprons, and with sailors, shoemakers, and shopkeepers they took the trail to the coast.



Because this was in the year 1849, all who crossed the continent were called “Forty-niners.” There were no trains to help them over the plains and the Rockies, no airplanes to fly them through the air. But on they came; some on horses, some in wagons, some in boats. Those who sailed from New York and Boston left their ships at Panama; a cross-country trip brought them to the Pacific Ocean, where other ships waited to take them north again.

Others sailed around Cape Horn and up the Western coast of the Americas. Their ships, American clippers, were fast, and the captains were daring. With sails spread, the ships rounded the Cape like huge birds skimming the ocean.

So thousands raced to get to California and the gold first.

As people poured into the Far West, better means of carrying the mail and passengers to and from the East had to be developed. Travel by ship took too long.

A stagecoach line, called “the Overland Mail,” was started. It ran from Missouri, across the plains and mountains and deserts, to California.



Through rain and dust, over good roads and bad, by day and night, the Overland Mail clattered across the country. At regular stops, horses and drivers or coaches were changed. The drivers drove as fast as they could, but the journey took weeks.

Because mail on the “Overland” was slow, in 1860 the Pony Express was begun. Two small saddlebags on each side of the horse held the mail. Only light letters could be sent. They were written on fine thin paper, and covered with oilskin to keep them dry.



Riding the fast horses were fearless men with guns at their belts, ready to fight off Indians or bandits. Each rider had a certain distance to cover. On reaching his destination, he gave his saddlebags to another rider, who raced on to the next station. So the mail passed from rider to rider, until the whole distance had been run.

The Pony Express ran for a year only; then the building of a telegraph line to California made it no longer necessary. But the bravery of riders like William F. (“Buffalo Bill”) Cody will never be forgotten.



While the West was being opened, people in the East were arguing about slavery. Most Negroes in the country were still slaves. There were not many slaves in the North, but in the South many were needed for the tobacco and cotton plantations.



Many people, especially in the North, said that slavery was wrong. “If this is a free country,” they argued, “why should slavery be allowed?”

In the South, many people said, “We can’t grow cotton and tobacco without slaves. We need them to work for us.”

The question was argued for years, and people became more and more excited about it. The story about slaves, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, was read by millions.



One man, John Brown, decided it was not enough to write books and make speeches against slavery. He and some friends attacked the government arsenal at Harper’s Ferry to get weapons with which to arm the Negroes and set them free. But he was caught, tried, and hanged.



At first, each state decided for itself whether it would permit slavery. But in time, Northerners said, “Slavery everywhere must end.” Southerners said, “We will keep our slaves, and leave the Union.”



Abraham Lincoln, the President elected in 1861, hated slavery, but wanted to keep the states together. Just before he took office, however, seven Southern states decided to quit the Union and govern themselves. They called their new nation the Confederate States of America.

North and South were now divided. Fort Sumter near Charleston, South Carolina, was fired upon by soldiers of the South, and so the Civil War began.



This Civil War was the saddest time in the history of our nation.



Armies marched across the land, and battles were fought on the sea. State fought against state, and sometimes brothers fought brothers.



Many were killed in the bitter struggle, homes and farms were burned, and villages and cities sometimes destroyed. Great bloody battles were fought at Shiloh and Vicksburg, Chattanooga and Gettysburg, and elsewhere.



AT GETTYSBURG WAS FOUGHT A GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

Brave men fought on each side. Robert E. Lee, general of the Southern soldiers, was loved by his own men and respected even by his enemies in the North. Another brave Southern leader was “Stonewall” Jackson. Chief of the Northern armies from 1864 on was General U. S. Grant.

The North was stronger than the South, and General Lee and his men finally had to surrender to General Grant in 1865. This was the end of the war. The generals met at Appomattox Court House, in Virginia, and agreed to make peace.

Meanwhile, President Lincoln, in his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, had ordered the freeing of all slaves. Now that the war was won by the Union, slavery was ended in the United States. The Union was saved, and there was now only one government for the nation, with Abraham Lincoln as President.



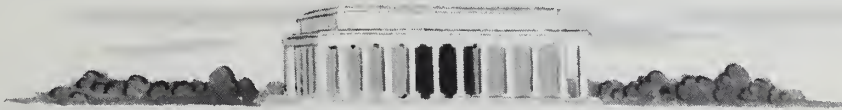
Lincoln now wanted to make North and South friends again. He said: “Let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

But Lincoln did not live to carry on his work of peace. One evening shortly after the war, Lincoln and his wife went to Ford's Theatre in Washington, D. C. There, as he sat in his box, he was shot by a hysterical actor, John Wilkes Booth. The next day, April 15, 1865, Abraham Lincoln died.



In the nation's capital, on the banks of the Potomac, stands a building made of white marble. Inside, behind tall columns stretching toward the sky, the walls are inscribed with the names of the forty-eight states which now make up the Union. Seated in a marble chair is a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

It seems as if he were speaking to us with kindness and understanding, saying that the soldiers of the Civil War did not die in vain, and "that this nation shall not perish from the earth."



This building is called the Lincoln Memorial. It will always remind us of a great President and a true American.



After the Civil War, men again took up the tasks of peace. There was bitterness in the South, because it had lost the war; its old ways of life were upset. But gradually the bitterness grew less as conditions improved and the people realized that all Americans should work together.

New land was cultivated for cotton, wheat, corn. New machinery made farming easier and brought a better harvest from the land.

Coal mines were developed, and thousands of men working underground sent an endless stream of cars out of the mines—cars filled with shiny black coal for cities and villages, farms and factories. Industry and trade grew.



Railroads lengthened from state to state, across the mountains and plains, through deserts and forests, until at last, in 1869, people could travel by rail all the way across America.



The “Iron Horse,” as the locomotive was called, moved westward, and more settlers followed. Many more people came from Europe—from Scandinavia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and other lands.

These were hard times for the Indians, who always had to leave when settlers moved in on their land. The red man attacked the settlers and the railroad builders. White men, in turn, destroyed whole Indian villages.

United States soldiers went out to protect the white men and drive the Indians back to their reservations or land set aside for their use. In one big fight, General Custer and his 276 men were attacked at Little Big Horn, Montana, by thousands of Indians led by the mighty chief Sitting Bull, and every white man was killed. But as years passed, the white man’s power became too great for the Indians, and the land became safe for the settlers.

Settlers had now spread into all parts of the country. But still more land was added to the United States.

In 1867 the Russian Government had sold us Alaska, rich in gold, fish, and furs.

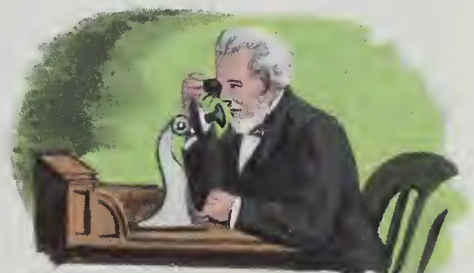


After a short war with Spain in 1898, we had possession of the Philippine Islands and Puerto Rico.

In the same year the government of the beautiful Hawaiian Islands voted to become a territory of the United States. Some of the Virgin Islands were bought by us from Denmark in 1917.



The telephone, invented by Bell in 1876, and the telegraph, developed by Morse in 1838, were being improved. People talked with each other across the continent, or sent messages to Europe through the undersea cable.



Thomas Edison worked on his wonderful inventions. His electric lamp, his phonograph, his storage battery, and many other things invented by him added comfort and pleasure to people's lives.



And so America started out on the twentieth century, a time of new inventions and new ideas.



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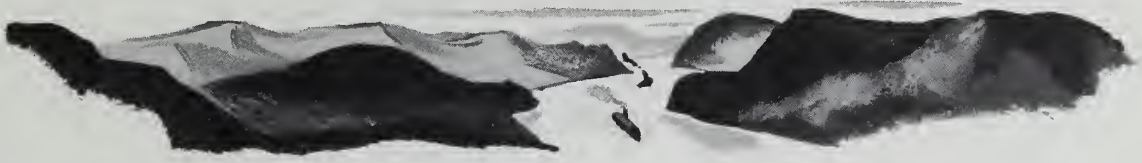
New men appeared to lead the country. One of these men was Theodore Roosevelt, the twenty-sixth President of the United States.



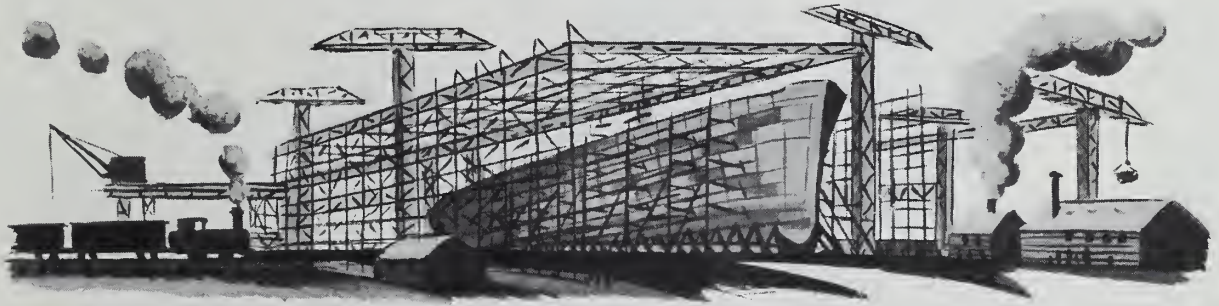
He wanted all people, rich and poor alike, to be busy and occupied. Among other things, he wanted “a square deal for everybody.” A man of action, Theodore Roosevelt led a busy life. He had been an officer in the Rough Riders, a famous American regiment which took part in the Spanish-American War. He liked camping and hunting, and he planned our national forests.

During his Presidency, the work on the Panama Canal was begun.

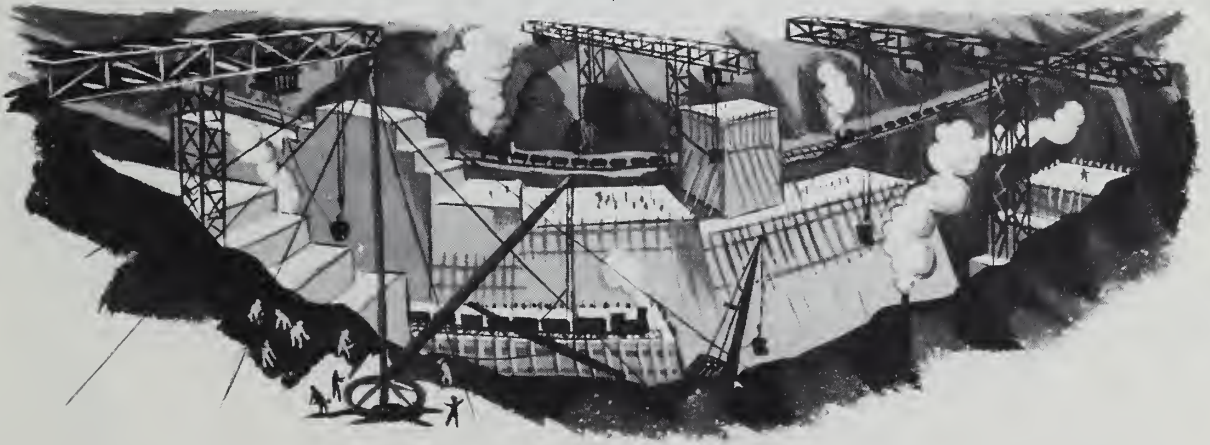
The building of this great canal was a truly gigantic task. Men and machines cut through the soil and the rocks, roads were built, railroads were laid, and slowly the big wide ditch was cut through the land.



Now the Atlantic Ocean was joined with the waters of the Pacific, and ships could avoid the long trip around stormy Cape Horn.



The twentieth century brought more machines into use. Some rolled out steel plates for ocean liners and cargo boats; others made tin cans and toys and telephone wires. People bought typewriters, sewing machines, and refrigerators. And in skyscrapers, made of steel and cement, swiftly moving elevators went up and down to apartments and offices.



Great dams were built to make reservoirs for water power.



THE PANAMA CANAL WAS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF AMERICAN ENGINEERS



Transportation improved. Automobiles now rolled on the highways stretching from coast to coast, bridges spanned the rivers, more trains were built, subways ran underground, and tunnels were dug under rivers.

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Two brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, invented a machine in which men could fly.

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The first airplanes were unsafe and flew only short distances. Improvements were thought out, and soon the planes were flying from city to city, and from one country to another.



The airplanes were used for travel and transportation, and in the World War for bombing, fighting, and observation.

The United States went into the World War in 1917, against Germany, after American ships and lives had been lost on the seas. American men under General Pershing went to France to fight beside the Allies. In the ranks of one division were men from every state in the Union; this was called the “Rainbow Division.”



Fighting was hard on land and sea, and in the air. Many were killed and wounded, and great destruction occurred, before the war ended.



When the armistice was declared in 1918 and the fighting stopped, Woodrow Wilson, our wartime President, sailed for Europe. He wanted to help the nations to make a just peace.



People in all countries were glad that again there was peace. They wanted to take up their work where they had left off before the war.



In the United States, progress continued. There were new inventions, and radio became popular. Bridges were built and harbors improved; better houses and hospitals were planned. Electric power was sent to farms and villages. More people received better education. Women received the right to vote in elections.



Airplanes had improved so much by 1927 that a young American, Charles A. Lindbergh, flew all alone in his plane from New York to Paris. This was a great feat, and people knew that traveling to Europe by air would soon be possible.



Now big airplanes, called Clipper ships, cross the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans with passengers and mails. Fast airplanes connect the cities in the United States. There is air service to Mexico, to South America, and to Canada.



In 1929, hard times began in the United States. Millions could not find work, and business was poor. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, elected in 1932, attempts were made to solve these problems.

Then, in 1939, a new World War broke out. Nations which believed in many freedoms for every citizen fought with nations in which the governments allowed the people few freedoms. The United States sent guns and planes across the seas to the defenders of freedom in England and other countries. American men were trained as soldiers to defend our shores, and our Navy was made larger and stronger.

In 1941, this nation, too, joined in the great conflict. The year 1945 brought victory to the Allies, and saw the founding of the United Nations. This year saw also the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, only President of the United States to be elected more than twice.



Today we look back over the long history of our nation. We think of the men who first worked and planned for the independence of this country; we think of the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, and of the frontiersmen and pioneers who crossed the plains and the mountains.

We think of all the men and women who have helped to build our great nation.

It is now our task to do *our* share, so that future generations will think of us and say:

THEY WORKED WELL AND HARD
FOR THEIR COUNTRY
AND FOR
THEIR FELLOW MEN



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